



MAR 12 2012

Mr. Jason Smathers
MuckRock News
Dept MR 835
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 209887

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This is in response to your request, dated November 29, 2011, and clarified on December 27, 2011, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for all e-mail messages sent by all GSA employees that work at 7th & D Streets, SW, in Washington, DC, that include the terms "bathroom" and/or "toilet," as they relate to the "exploding toilet" event that took place on or around September 26, 2011. We agreed to search for messages sent on the day of the event and the day after the event.

Enclosed are documents that are responsive to your request. However, we are withholding 90 documents pursuant to the sixth statutory exemption under FOIA which permits an agency to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files," the disclosure of which "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" (5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)). We have determined that the individual employees that wrote and/or received these messages have privacy interests that would be violated by the release of documents that are merely private conversations. In addition, these documents are being withheld as we have determined that disclosure will not contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operations or activities of the Government. Further, these documents may also be viewed as non-responsive to your request, as they are merely private communications and are, therefore, not agency records.

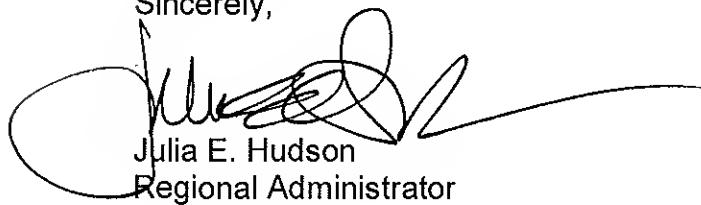
This constitutes a partial denial under FOIA. You may appeal this decision to the General Services Administration no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days from receipt of this decision by writing to the following address:

Freedom of Information Act
Executive Secretariat Division (ADE)
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW, Room 3116
Washington, DC 20405-0001

Your appeal must be in writing and should summarize your rationale as to why the complete documentation should be released. Please enclose copies of your initial request and this denial. Both the appeal letter and the envelope should be marked prominently, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

This completes the action on your request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Toni Slappy, FOIA Coordinator, at (202) 205-0553.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia E. Hudson".

Julia E. Hudson
Regional Administrator

Enclosures



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 12:45 PM

To: Airls Gill <airls.gill@gsa.gov>, Alfonso Finley <alfonso.finley@gsa.gov>, "Angel (Tom) Barroso" <tom.barroso@gsa.gov>, Arthur Yarbrough <arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov>, Barbara Sisco <barbara.sisco@gsa.gov>, Brenda Cadette <brenda.cadette@gsa.gov>, Brian Quarles <brian.quarles@gsa.gov>, Calvin Myint <calvin.myint@gsa.gov>, Charles Robinson <charles.robinson@gsa.gov>, Chris Copenhaver <Chris.Copenhaver@dhs.gov>, Claire Fortune <claire.fortune@gsa.gov>, Daniel McLaughlin <Daniel.McLaughlin@dhs.gov>, Dean Smith <dean.smith@gsa.gov>, Denise Webster <denise.webster@gsa.gov>, Dennis Williams <dennis.williams@gsa.gov>, Doug Nelson <doug.nelson@gsa.gov>, Ellis Hyman <ellis.hyman@gsa.gov>, Eric Minor <erlc.minor@gsa.gov>, Genevieve Gillinger <genevieve.gillinger@gsa.gov>, George Jones <george.jones@gsa.gov>, Georgia Davis-Leggett <georgia.davis-leggett@gsa.gov>, Grayling Williams <grayling.williams@dhs.gov>, Gregory Jeffries <gregory.jeffries@gsa.gov>, Iris Faltz <iris.faltz@gsa.gov>, Jeremy Downs <jeremy.downs@gsa.gov>, Jerry Williams <jerry.williams@dhs.gov>, John Harris <john.harris@gsa.gov>, John Harris <leslie.alligood@gsa.gov>, John Smith <john.smith@gsa.gov>, Julia Hudson <julia.hudson@gsa.gov>, Kathleen Geisler <kathleen.geisler@gsa.gov>, Kathryn Vendemio <kate.vendemio@gsa.gov>, Kellie Cashwell <kellie.cashwell@gsa.gov>, Ken Rash <ken.rash@gsa.gov>, Larry Smith <l.smith@gsa.gov>, Lisa Blinckes <lisa.blinckes@gsa.gov>, Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>, Mary Costa <mary.costa@gsa.gov>, Michael McGill <michael.mcgill@gsa.gov>, Mina Wright <mina.wright@gsa.gov>, Monique Johnson <monique.johnson@gsa.gov>, Natasha Schatzman <natasha.schatzman@gsa.gov>, Paula DeMuth <paula.demuth@gsa.gov>, Reggie Warner <reginald.warner@dhs.gov>, Renee Jones-Felder <renee.jones-felder@gsa.gov>, Roger Mason <roger.mason@gsa.gov>, Samir Ayoub <samir.ayoub@gsa.gov>, Shapour Ebadi <shapour.ebadi@gsa.gov>, Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>, Shaunta Johnson <shaunta.johnson@gsa.gov>, Steven Williford <steven.williford@gsa.gov>, Terry McNair <terry.mcnair@gsa.gov>, Thomas James <thomas.james@gsa.gov>, Tim Scheckler <tim.scheckler@gsa.gov>, Tom Hodnett <tom.hodnett@gsa.gov>, Victoria Hartke <victoria.hartke@gsa.gov>, William Clayton <william.clayton@gsa.gov>

Urgent Issue

Due to a mechanical failure there is high air pressure in the domestic water system that had resulted in damage to toilets in ROB. The Engineering Staff is working to correct the issue and expect this issue to be resolved with the hour. Please communicate to your staff to NOT use the restrooms and emphasize DO NOT flush the toilets or use any domestic water. There has been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will announce when the issue is resolved.

--
Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
Supervisory Property Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
National Capital Region
301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
Washington, DC 20407
OFFICE - (202) 205-4818



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

1 message

Arthur Yarbrough (WPMA) <arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 1:00 PM

To: "Chris Litsey (WPMFB)" <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Cc: Jimmy Huff <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>, Laura Doyle <laura.doyle@gsa.gov>, Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>, John Harris <john.harris@gsa.gov>

Chris, please call Jimmy Huff at 202-870-0633 in reference to the injury report stated in your email below. Jimmy is the Regional Safety Officer and I want to ensure that he is made aware of the injury.

On Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 12:45 PM, Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:

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CELL - (202) 713-7650
FAX - (202) 708-4867

--
Warm Regards,

Arthur Yarbrough
Director, Facilities Management and Services Programs Division
GSA-Public Buildings Service/National Capital Region
301 7th Street, SW
Rm3660
Washington, DC 20407

11/29/11

GSA.gov Mail - Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

Office: 202-205-8950

Cell: 202-596-0936

Fax: 202-205-7388



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

1 message

Chris Litsey <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 1:08 PM

To: arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov

Cc: jimmy.huff@gsa.gov, laura.doyle@gsa.gov, martin.gusky@gsa.gov, john.harris@gsa.gov

Arthur,

I will call asap.

Chris

From: Arthur Yarbrough (WPMA) [mailto:arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov]

Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 12:00 PM

To: Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Cc: Jimmy Huff <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>; Laura Doyle <laura.doyle@gsa.gov>; Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>; John Harris <john.harris@gsa.gov>

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Update #1

The cause of the high pressure has been corrected. The restrooms are still closed while the building engineers bleed the pressure from the system. The restrooms should be open in less than 30 minutes.

Chris

From: Chris Litsey (WPMFB) [mailto:chris.litsey@gsa.gov]**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 11:45 AM

To: Airls Gill <airls.gill@gsa.gov>; Alfonso Finley <alfonso.finley@gsa.gov>; Angel (Tom) Barroso <tom.barroso@gsa.gov>; Arthur Yarbrough <arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov>; Barbara Sisco <barbara.sisco@gsa.gov>; Brenda Cadette <brenda.cadette@gsa.gov>; Brian Quarles <brian.quarles@gsa.gov>; Calvin Myint <calvin.myint@gsa.gov>; Charles Robinson <charles.robinson@gsa.gov>; Chris Copenhaver <Chris.Copenhaver@dhs.gov>; Claire Fortune <claire.fortune@gsa.gov>; Daniel McLaughlin <Daniel.Mclaughlin@dhs.gov>; Dean Smith <dean.smith@gsa.gov>; Denise Webster <denise.webster@gsa.gov>; Dennis Williams <dennis.williams@gsa.gov>; Doug Nelson <doug.nelson@gsa.gov>; Ellis Hyman <ellis.hyman@gsa.gov>; Eric Minor <eric.minor@gsa.gov>; Genevieve Gillinger <genevieve.gillinger@gsa.gov>; George Jones <george.jones@gsa.gov>; Georgia Davis-Leggett <georgia.davis-leggett@gsa.gov>; Grayling Williams <grayling.williams@dhs.gov>; Gregory Jeffries <gregory.jeffries@gsa.gov>; Iris Faltz <iris.faltz@gsa.gov>; Jeremy Downs <jeremy.downs@gsa.gov>; Jerry Williams <jerry.williams@dhs.gov>; John Harris <john.harris@gsa.gov>; John Harris <leslie.alligood@gsa.gov>; John Smith <Johnl.smith@gsa.gov>; Julia Hudson <julia.hudson@gsa.gov>; Kathleen Geisler <kathleen.geisler@gsa.gov>; Kathryn Vendemio <kate.vendemio@gsa.gov>; Kellie Cashwell <kellie.cashwell@gsa.gov>; Ken Rash <ken.rash@gsa.gov>; Larry Smith <l.smith@gsa.gov>; Lisa Binckes <lisabnckes@gsa.gov>; Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>; Mary Costa <mary.costa@gsa.gov>; Michael McGill <michael.mcgill@gsa.gov>; Mina Wright <mina.wright@gsa.gov>; Monique Johnson <monique.johnson@gsa.gov>; Natasha Schatzman <natasha.schatzman@gsa.gov>; Paula DeMuth <paula.demuth@gsa.gov>; Reggie Warner <reginald.warner@dhs.gov>; Renee Jones-Felder <renee.jones-felder@gsa.gov>; Roger Mason <roger.mason@gsa.gov>; Samir Ayoub <samir.ayoub@gsa.gov>; Shapour Ebadi <shapour.ebadl@gsa.gov>; Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>; Shaunta Johnson <shaunta.johnson@gsa.gov>; Steven Williford <steven.williford@gsa.gov>; Terry McNair <terry.mcnaul@gsa.gov>; Thomas James <thomas.james@gsa.gov>; Tim Scheckler <tim.scheckler@gsa.gov>; Tom Hodnett <tom.hodnett@gsa.gov>; Victoria Hartke <victoria.hartke@gsa.gov>; William Clayton <william.clayton@gsa.gov>

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To: alris.gill@gsa.gov, alfonso.finley@gsa.gov, tom.barroso@gsa.gov, arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov, barbara.sisco@gsa.gov, brenda.cadette@gsa.gov, brian.quarles@gsa.gov, calvin.myint@gsa.gov, charles.robinson@gsa.gov, Chris.Copenhaver@dhs.gov, claire.fortune@gsa.gov, Daniel.Mclaughlin@dhs.gov, dean.smith@gsa.gov, denise.webster@gsa.gov, dennis.williams@gsa.gov, doug.nelson@gsa.gov, ellis.hyman@gsa.gov, eric.minor@gsa.gov, genevieve.gillinger@gsa.gov, george.jones@gsa.gov, georgia.davis-leggett@gsa.gov, grayling.williams@dhs.gov, gregory.jeffries@gsa.gov, lrls.faltz@gsa.gov, jeremy.downs@gsa.gov, jerry.williams@dhs.gov, john.harris@gsa.gov, leslie.alligood@gsa.gov, johnl.smith@gsa.gov, julia.hudson@gsa.gov, kathleen.geisler@gsa.gov, kate.vendemio@gsa.gov

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To: Chris Litsey <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
Cc: Jimmy Huff <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 1:57 PM

Thanks Chris! Any update on the injury?

On Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 1:48 PM, Chris Litsey <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:
Update #2

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<gregory.jeffries@gsa.gov>; 'iris.faltz@gsa.gov' <iris.faltz@gsa.gov>; 'jeremy.downs@gsa.gov'
<jeremy.downs@gsa.gov>; 'jerry.williams@dhs.gov' <jerry.williams@dhs.gov>; 'john.harris@gse.gov'
<john.harris@gsa.gov>; 'leslie.alligood@gsa.gov' <leslie.alligood@gsa.gov>; 'johnl.smith@gsa.gov'
<johnl.smith@gsa.gov>; 'julia.hudson@gsa.gov' <julia.hudson@gsa.gov>; 'kathleen.geisler@gsa.gov'
<kathleen.geisler@gsa.gov>; 'kate.vendemlo@gsa.gov' <kate.vendemlo@gsa.gov>
Subject: Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

Update #1

The cause of the high pressure has been corrected. The restrooms are still closed while the building engineers bleed the pressure from the system. The restrooms should be open in less than 30 minutes.

Chris

From: Chris Litsey (WPMFB) [mailto:chris.litsey@gsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 11:45 AM

To: Alris Gill <airis.gill@gsa.gov>; Alfonso Finley <alfonso.finley@gsa.gov>; Angel (Tom) Barroso <tom.barroso@gsa.gov>; Arthur Yarbrough <arthur.yarbrough@gsa.gov>; Barbara Sisco <barbara.sisco@gsa.gov>; Brenda Cadette <brenda.cadette@gsa.gov>; Brian Quarles <brian.quarles@gsa.gov>; Calvin Myint <calvin.myint@gsa.gov>; Charles Robinson <charles.robinson@gsa.gov>; Chris Copenhaver <Chris.Copenhaver@dhs.gov>; Claire Fortune <claire.fortune@gsa.gov>; Daniel McLaughlin <Daniel.McLaughlin@dhs.gov>; Dean Smith <dean.smith@gsa.gov>; Denise Webster <denise.webster@gsa.gov>; Dennis Williams <dennis.williams@gsa.gov>; Doug Nelson <doug.nelson@gsa.gov>; Ellis Hyman <ellis.hyman@gsa.gov>; Eric Minor <eric.minor@gsa.gov>; Genevieve Gillingham <genevieve.gillingham@gsa.gov>; George Jones <george.jones@gsa.gov>; Georgia Davis-Leggett <georgia.davis-leggett@gsa.gov>; Grayling Williams <grayling.williams@dhs.gov>; Gregory Jeffries <gregory.jeffries@gsa.gov>; Iris Faltz <iris.faltz@gsa.gov>; Jeremy Downs <jeremy.downs@gsa.gov>; Jerry Williams <Jerry.Williams@dhs.gov>; John Harris <john.harris@gsa.gov>; John Harris <leslie.alligood@gsa.gov>; John Smith <john.smith@gsa.gov>; Julia Hudson <julia.hudson@gsa.gov>; Kathleen Geissler <kathleen.geissler@gsa.gov>; Kathryn Vendemlo <kate.vendemlo@gsa.gov>; Kellie Cashwell <kellie.cashwell@gsa.gov>; Ken Rash <ken.rash@gsa.gov>; Larry Smith <l.smith@gsa.gov>; Lisa Binckes <lisa.binckes@gsa.gov>; Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>; Mary Costa <mary.costa@gsa.gov>; Michael McGill <michael.mcgill@gsa.gov>; Mina Wright <mina.wright@gsa.gov>; Monique Johnson <monique.johnson@gsa.gov>; Natasha Schatzman <natasha.schatzman@gsa.gov>; Paula DeMuth <paula.demuth@gse.gov>; Reggie Warmer <reginald.warmer@dhs.gov>; Renee Jones-Felder <renee.jones-felder@gsa.gov>; Roger Mason <roger.mason@gsa.gov>; Samir Ayoub <samir.ayoub@gsa.gov>; Shapour Ebadi <shapour.ebadi@gsa.gov>; Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>; Shaunta Johnson <shaunta.johnson@gsa.gov>; Steven Williford <steven.williford@gsa.gov>; Terry McNair <terry.mcnair@gsa.gov>; Thomas James <thomas.james@gsa.gov>; Tim Scheckler <tim.scheckler@gsa.gov>; Tom Hodnett <tom.hodnett@gsa.gov>; Victoria Hartke <victoria.hartke@gsa.gov>; William Clayton <william.clayton@gsa.gov>

Subject: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

Urgent Issue

Due to a mechanical failure there is high air pressure in the domestic water system that had resulted in damage to toilets in ROB. The Engineering Staff is working to correct the issue and expect this issue to be resolved within the hour. Please communicate to your staff to NOT use the restrooms and emphasize DO NOT flush the toilets or use any domestic water. There has been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will announce when the issue is resolved.

--
Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
Supervisory Property Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
National Capital Region
301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
Washington, DC 20407
OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
CELL - (202) 713-7650
FAX- (202) 708-4867

--
Warm Regards,

Arthur Yarbrough
Director, Facilities Management and Services Programs Division
GSA-Public Buildings Service/National Capital Region
301 7th Street, SW
Rm3660
Washington, DC 20407
Office: 202-205-8950
Cell: 202-596-0936
Fax: 202-205-7388

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Harris (WPM) [john.harris@gsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Summer Salyer (WP)
Cc: Leslie Alligood; Martin Gusky; Shauna Carter
Subject: Re: Are we doing anything on this?

Potomac SC is directing all media inquiries to Mike McGill

The plumbing is repaired and most restrooms are back in operation with one or two exceptions. We are assessing the cause and will have a report in the near future.

John G. Harris II
Director, Office of Facilities Management
National Capital Region
General Services Administration
Office# 202-708-5891
Cell # 202-528-5730
@johngharris3

On Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 4:17 PM, Summer Salyer (WP) <summer.salyer@gsa.gov> wrote:

Summer Salyer
Office of the Regional Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
301 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20407
[202.260.0653](tel:202.260.0653) (desk)
[202.580.9369](tel:202.580.9369) (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Summer Salyer (WP) <summer.salyer@gsa.gov>
Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 4:15 PM
Subject: Are we doing anything on this?
To: Michael McGill <michael.mcgill@gsa.gov>, Thomas James <thomas.james@gsa.gov>

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/168701/187/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

Summer Salyer
Office of the Regional Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
301 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20407
202.260.0653 (desk)
202.580.9369 (cell)

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Kevin Ward (WPFBO) [kevin.ward@gsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 4:27 PM
To: Kimya Ginyard; Tanya Minor; Anthony Marable; Clayborne, Jennifer
Subject: GSA made the news

<http://wusa9.com/news/article/168701/158/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Kimya Ginyard (WPFBR) [kimya.ginyard@gsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 4:29 PM
To: April Lee
Subject: Fwd: GSA made the news

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kevin Ward (WPFBO) <kevin.ward@gsa.gov>
Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 4:27 PM
Subject: GSA made the news
To: Kimya Ginyard <kimya.ginyard@gsa.gov>, Tanya Minor <tanya.minor@gsa.gov>, Anthony Marable <anthony.marable@gsa.gov>, "Clayborne, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Clayborne@dhs.gov>

<http://wusa9.com/news/article/168701/158/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

--
Kimya I. Ginyard
Revenue Team Lead
Budget Division
Public Building Service
National Capital Region
U.S. General Services Administration
301 D Street, SW
Washington DC 20407
202.401.8102 (office)
202.570.0057 (cell)
202.692.3554 (efax)



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

1 message

John Harris (WPM) <john.harris@gsa.gov>
To: "Chris Litsey (WPMFB)" <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
Cc: Leslie Alligood <leslie.alligood@gsa.gov>, Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>, Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 5:43 PM

Chris

Thank you for these messages and updates. Who received them? Did this go to all occupants?

On Sep 26, 2011 12:45 PM, "Chris Litsey (WPMFB)" <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:

> ***Urgent Issue***
>
> Due to a mechanical failure there is high air pressure in the domestic water
> system that had resulted in damage to toilets in ROB. The Engineering Staff
> is working to correct the issue and expect this issue to be resolved with
> the hour. Please communicate to your staff to NOT use the restrooms and
> emphasize DO NOT flush the toilets or use any domestic water. There has
> been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will
> announce when the issue is resolved.
>
>
> --
> Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
> Supervisory Property Manager
> U.S. General Services Administration
> National Capital Region
> 301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
> Washington, DC 20407
> OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
> CELL - (202) 713-7650
> FAX- (202) 708-4867



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

ROB Mechanical Incident 9/26/11

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 6:39 PM

Shauna,

At approximately 12:20 PM on 9/26/11 I was notified that there was an emergency in the 4071 Restroom, and that someone had been injured. I responded with the Assistant Building Manager Jesse Hausmann. Upon arriving we found Nurse on site administering aid to the injured employee and several other employees assisting.

It was apparent that the injury was caused by the fragment of a broken toilet bowl. The upper portion of the bowl where the water supply comes in (top portion against the wall) was broken, and the trap on the bottom was also broken. People on site told us that the toilet "exploded". We found at that time that the waterlines to toilets in that restroom were dry and flushing the toilets created a loud and startling sound, and also ejected the remaining water from the bowl. I immediately called the Work Leader Brian Shaffer to investigate the problem. About that time, I received another call from the ROB Service Desk that another toilet on the first floor had shattered and another person had been injured. I directed that all ROB Staff begin closing all bathrooms to prevent further injury, and Jesse Hausmann went to the ROB Security Control Center to make an announcement that all restrooms were closed. Brian Shaffer was able to investigate the domestic water tank and found the tank dry.

An air compressor was running creating pressure in the domestic water tank and that may have contributed to this incident. This compressor was immediately turned off, pressure valves were opened to reduce the pressure in the tank, and the tank was allowed to fill with water. This was happening at about 12:30 PM, and an estimate of one hour to fill the tank and purge air from the system.

I informed my leadership team of the issue at about 12:30 making multiple calls, while going to my office to put out an email communication to the Senior Contacts in ROB. The initial overhead announcement went out at about 12:35 PM. I received feedback that the message was difficult to understand and a second announcement was made at about 12:40 PM. The email to Senior Contacts was sent at 12:45 PM. Event specific signs were printed and posted on the restrooms throughout the building. At about 12:55 PM, Brian Shaffer informed me that the domestic water tank was filled and building O&M staff were working to purge air from the system. All O&M staff were employed to complete this as quickly as possible.

I called Jimmy Huff from the Safety Office and we met at Rm 4071, the site of the original incident just after 1:00 PM. Mr. Huff collected information for his investigation/report. I also took pictures of the damage at that time. At about 1:15 PM it was verified that all bathrooms fixtures in the building had been purged, and were operating properly. I passed that information along to the Senior Contacts via email. However, at 1:49 PM there was another incident in Rm 1071 reported, where the trap on a toilet bowl shattered. This was communicated to leadership, and all bathrooms were again purged. Believing that air was trapped in the system all faucets were turned on and left on throughout the building for over an hour. The toilets were flushed throughout the building while turning on the faucets at about 2:00 PM, and again when turning them off at 3:15 PM. A watch was placed on the domestic water tank at about 3:30 PM, and remains in place currently. O&M staff was instructed to continue to flush toilets and run faucets to remove any potential air from the system until 6:00 PM. Staff will be evaluating toilets for damage while continuing to purge the system. Any toilets with damage will be taken out of the system. These actions will continue tomorrow morning. There were several instances of broken toilet bowls and damaged wax rings. A comprehensive list of damage will follow.

Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
Supervisory Property Manager

11/29/11

GSA.gov Mail - ROB Mechanical Incident 9/26/11

U.S. General Services Administration
National Capital Region
301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
Washington, DC 20407
OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
CELL - (202) 713-7650
FAX- (202) 708-4867



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: "John Harris (WPM)" <john.harris@gsa.gov>
Cc: Leslie Allgood <leslie.allgood@gsa.gov>, Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>, Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 6:43 PM

John,

I sent these emails to the Senior Contacts in ROB only. We also used multiple overhead announcements and posted notices on the bathroom doors to inform staff.

Chris

On Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 5:43 PM, John Harris (WPM) <john.harris@gsa.gov> wrote:

Chris

Thank you for these messages and updates. Who received them? Did this go to all occupants?

On Sep 26, 2011 12:45 PM, "Chris Litsey (WPMFB)" <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:

> ***Urgent Issue***

>

> Due to a mechanical failure there is high air pressure in the domestic water
> system that had resulted in damage to toilets in ROB. The Engineering Staff
> is working to correct the issue and expect this issue to be resolved with
> the hour. Please communicate to your staff to NOT use the restrooms and
> emphasize DO NOT flush the toilets or use any domestic water. There has
> been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will
> announce when the issue is resolved.

>

>

> --

> Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
> Supervisory Property Manager
> U.S. General Services Administration
> National Capital Region
> 301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
> Washington, DC 20407
> OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
> CELL - (202) 713-7650
> FAX- (202) 708-4867

--
Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
Supervisory Property Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
National Capital Region
301 7th Street SW - Room 1102

11/29/11

GSA.gov Mail - Re: ***Urgent *** Bathrooms Closed at ROB

Washington, DC 20407
OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
CELL - (202) 713-7650
FAX - (202) 708-4867

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Shika Duncan (WPFFP) [shika.duncan@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 6:57 AM
To: Caroline Lewis

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

Shika Duncan
Financial Management Analyst
Financial Management Division
Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
U.S. General Services Administration
7th & D Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407
202-260-0409

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Caroline Lewis (WPFFC) [caroline.lewis@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:00 AM
To: Hill, William; Benjamin Lewis
Subject: I am scared to pee...

From: Shika Duncan (WPFFP) [<mailto:shika.duncan@gsa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 6:57 AM

To: Caroline Lewis

Subject:

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

Shika Duncan
Financial Management Analyst
Financial Management Division
Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
U.S. General Services Administration
7th & D Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407
202-260-0409

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Hampson (WQMDA) [john.hampson@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:42 AM
To: Robin Currie; Daniel Buckingham
Subject: check out this story about my building

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

John R. Hampson
Deputy Director
GSA Fleet
National Capitol Region
202-619-8928
cell - 703-898-0226

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Hampson (WQMDA) [/john.hampson@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:43 AM
To: Kurt Ettenger
Subject: toilets in my building

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Joseph Reid (WPMACA) [joseph.reid@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:44 AM
To: Roger Mason; Tracy Shycoff; William Leslie
Subject: 7th & Dst

Exploding Toilet Sends Woman To Hospital | News

Title

Exploding Toilet Sends Woman To Hospital



Submitted by [WUSA9 Web Staff](#)

Monday, September 26th, 2011, 3:09pm

Topics: [News](#)

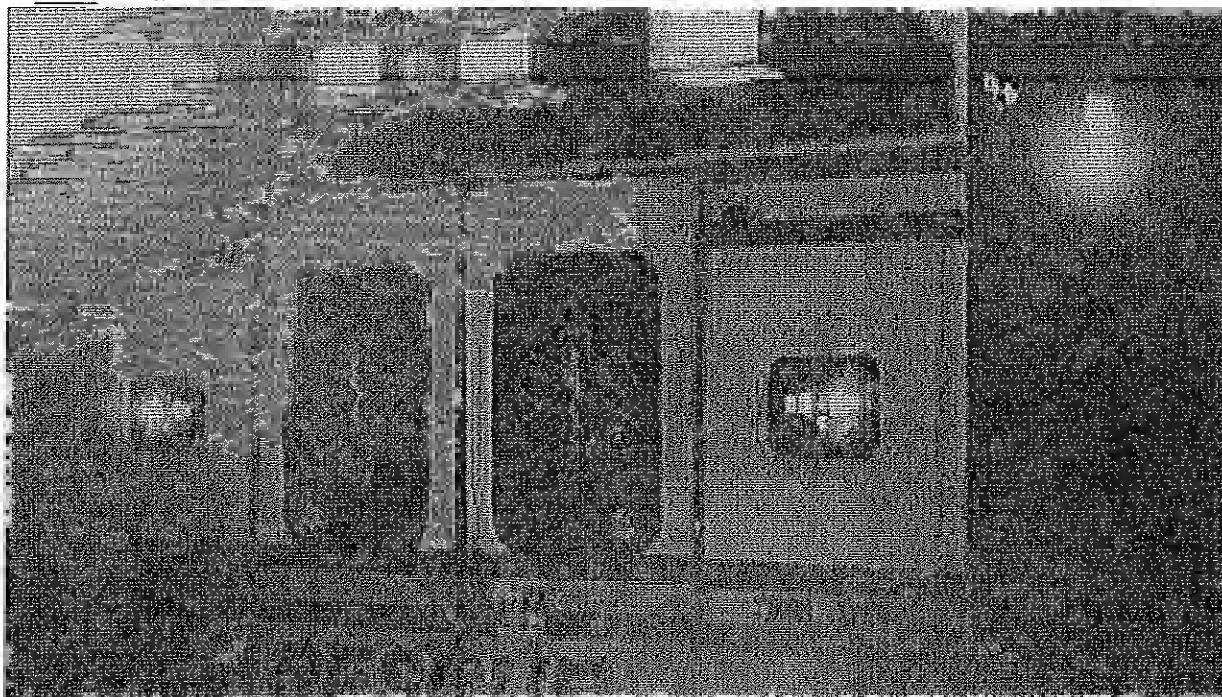
7



97



[Print](#) [E-mail](#)



WASHINGTON (WUSA) -- A woman was sent to the hospital after a toilet exploded at the General Services Administration (GSA) Building in DC, building officials said.

DC Fire Spokesman Pete Piringer confirmed the woman was taken to the hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The GSA Regional office building employees were sent a memo, warning them to not use the bathrooms in the building, because the plumbing may be dangerous. The building is on 7th and D SW.

"DO NOT flush toilets or use any domestic water. Due to a mechanical failure, there is high air pressure in the domestic water system that resulted in damage to toilets. The engineering staff is working to correct the issue," the memo said. "There has been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will announce when the issue is resolved."

--

Thank you,

Joseph E. Reid (Eddie)
Building Management Specialist
Facilities Management and Services Program Division
National Capital Region
U.S General Services Administration
301 7th St. SW - Room 7512
Washington, DC 20407
Office (202) 205-0261
Cell (202) 731-0174

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Cowen (WPAA) [john.cowen@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:58 AM
To: Alicia Krepps; Marissa M. Baccam
Subject: Who was this???

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

--
John Cowen
Program Analyst
Client Intelligence Division
Office of Client Solutions
202.870.1853

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: James Harrington (WQMDA) [james.w.harrington@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:14 AM
To: charles.robinson@gsa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Fw: NBC4 Washington : Exploding Toilet Injures Woman in DC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Harrington** <jharri1128@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:13 AM
Subject: Fw: NBC4 Washington : Exploding Toilet Injures Woman in DC
To: Bobby Digital <james.w.harrington@gsa.gov>

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From: valeiryh@yahoo.com <valeiryh@yahoo.com>;
To: James Harrington <jharri1128@yahoo.com>;
Subject: NBC4 Washington : Exploding Toilet Injures Woman in DC
Sent: Tue, Sep 27, 2011 10:16:08 AM

--
*James W. Harrington, Jr.
Transportation Operations Specialist
U.S. General Services Administration
Federal Acquisition Service
National Capitol Region/Fleet Management
301 7th Street SW, Room 6628
Washington, D.C. 20407
(202) 619-8902-Phone#
(202) 619-8999-Fax#*

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Flannery (WQFAB) [john.flannery@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:43 AM
To: flanneryjohn@yahoo.com
Subject: link

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44676485/ns/us_news-weird_news/t/report-exploding-toilet-injures-woman-gsa-building/



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: Yesterday's Incident - Water Pressure

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: "Jimmy Huff (WPMACB)" <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>

Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:44 AM

Jimmy,

This is something that I wrote last night, and this should help. I can also meet with you but maybe you will have more specific questions after reading this.

At approximately 12:20 PM on 9/26/11 I was notified that there was an emergency in the 4071 Restroom, and that someone had been injured. I responded with the Assistant Building Manager Jesse Hausmann. Upon arriving we found Nurse on site administering aid to the injured employee and several other employees assisting.

It was apparent that the injury was caused by the fragment of a broken toilet bowl. The upper portion of the bowl where the water supply comes in (top portion against the wall) was broken, and the trap on the bottom was also broken. People on site told us that the toilet "exploded". We found at that time that the waterlines to toilets in that restroom were dry and flushing the toilets created a loud and startling sound, and also ejected the remaining water from the bowl. I immediately called the Work Leader Brian Shaffer to investigate the problem. About that time, I received another call from the ROB Service Desk that another toilet on the first floor had shattered and another person had been injured. I directed that all ROB Staff begin closing all bathrooms to prevent further injury, and Jesse Hausmann went to the ROB Security Control Center to make an announcement that all restrooms were closed. Brian Shaffer was able to investigate the domestic water tank and found the tank dry.

An air compressor was running creating pressure in the domestic water tank and that may have contributed to this incident. This compressor was immediately turned off, pressure valves were opened to reduce the pressure in the tank, and the tank was allowed to fill with water. This was happening at about 12:30 PM, and an estimate of one hour to fill the tank and purge air from the system.

I informed my leadership team of the issue at about 12:30 making multiple calls, while going to my office to put out an email communication to the Senior Contacts in ROB. The initial overhead announcement went out at about 12:35 PM. I received feedback that the message was difficult to understand and a second announcement was made at about 12:40 PM. The email to Senior Contacts was sent at 12:45 PM.

Event specific signs were printed and posted on the restrooms throughout the building. At about 12:55 PM, Brian Shaffer informed me that the domestic water tank was filled and building O&M staff were working to purge air from the system. All O&M staff were employed to complete this as quickly as possible.

I called Jimmy Huff from the Safety Office and we met at Rm 4071, the site of the original incident just after 1:00 PM. Mr. Huff collected information for his investigation/report. I also took pictures of the damage at that time.

At about 1:15 PM it was verified that all bathrooms fixtures in the building had been purged, and were operating properly. I passed that information along to the Senior Contacts via email. However, at 1:49 PM there was another incident in Rm 1071 reported, where the trap on a toilet bowl shattered. This was communicated to leadership, and all bathrooms were again purged. Believing that air was trapped in the system all faucets were turned on and left on throughout the building for over an hour. The toilets were flushed throughout the building while turning on the faucets at about 2:00 PM, and again when turning them off at 3:15 PM. A watch was placed on the domestic water tank at about 3:30 PM, and remains in place currently. O&M staff was instructed to continue to flush toilets and run faucets to remove any potential air from the system until 6:00 PM. Staff will be evaluating toilets for damage while continuing to purge the system. Any toilets with damage will be taken out of the system. These actions will continue tomorrow morning. There were several instances of broken toilet bowls and damaged wax rings. A comprehensive list of damage will follow.

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:05 AM, Jimmy Huff (WPMACB) <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov> wrote:

Chris,

If at all possible, I need a few minutes of your time/your assistance (if you are not available). I would like to take a look at the compressor and go over some timelines. Should not take more than 45 minutes or so. Currently, I am scheduled to be in the office most of the day. So let me know when you might be available. Thanks...

--
Jimmy L. Huff, CPM
National Capital Region
Safety Environment and Fire Protection Branch
Supervisor, Occupational Safety and Health
301 7th Street SW, Rm 2080
Washington, DC 20407
Business: 202-708-5256
Cell: 202-870-0633

--
Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
Supervisory Property Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
National Capital Region
301 7th Street SW - Room 1102
Washington, DC 20407
OFFICE - (202) 205-4818
CELL - (202) 713-7650
FAX- (202) 708-4867



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: Yesterday's Incident - Water Pressure

1 message

Jimmy Huff (WPMACB) <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>
To: "Chris Litsey (WPMFB)" <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 9:18 AM

Chris,

A very good report. If possible, can I go with one of your people to take a look at the location of the air compressor. Also has there been any recent complaints regarding water pressure.. In the last 3 months?

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:44 AM, Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:
Jimmy,

This is something that I wrote last night, and this should help. I can also meet with you but maybe you will have more specific questions after reading this.

At approximately 12:20 PM on 9/26/11 I was notified that there was an emergency in the 4071 Restroom, and that someone had been injured. I responded with the Assistant Building Manager Jesse Hausmann. Upon arriving we found Nurse on site administering aid to the injured employee and several other employees assisting. It was apparent that the injury was caused by the fragment of a broken toilet bowl. The upper portion of the bowl where the water supply comes in (top portion against the wall) was broken, and the trap on the bottom was also broken. People on site told us that the toilet "exploded". We found at that time that the waterlines to toilets in that restroom were dry and flushing the toilets created a loud and startling sound, and also ejected the remaining water from the bowl. I immediately called the Work Leader Brian Shaffer to investigate the problem. About that time, I received another call from the ROB Service Desk that another toilet on the first floor had shattered and another person had been injured. I directed that all ROB Staff begin closing all bathrooms to prevent further injury, and Jesse Hausmann went to the ROB Security Control Center to make an announcement that all restrooms were closed. Brian Shaffer was able to investigate the domestic water tank and found the tank dry. An air compressor was running creating pressure in the domestic water tank and that may have contributed to this incident. This compressor was immediately turned off, pressure valves were opened to reduce the pressure in the tank, and the tank was allowed to fill with water. This was happening at about 12:30 PM, and an estimate of one hour to fill the tank and purge air from the system.

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On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:05 AM, Jimmy Huff (WPMACB) <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov> wrote:
Chris,

If at all possible, I need a few minutes of your time/your assistance (if you are not available). I would like to take a look at the compressor and go over some timelines. Should not take more than 45 minutes or so. Currently, I am scheduled to be in the office most of the day. So let me know when you might be available. Thanks...

--
Jimmy L. Huff, CPM
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Safety Environment and Fire Protection Branch
Supervisor, Occupational Safety and Health
301 7th Street SW, Rm 2080
Washington, DC 20407
Business: 202-708-5256
Cell: 202-870-0633

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Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Jimmy Huff (WPMACB) [jimmy.huff@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 9:20 AM
To: David Marciak (PMAB)
Cc: Patricia Williams
Subject: Re: Fw: Exploding Toilet Sends Woman To Hospital

Yes, we are aware of the incident. Currently pulling pieces together. Are you looking for anything specific in the short term?

On Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 8:17 PM, David Marciak (PMAB) <david.marciniak@gsa.gov> wrote:
Do you have any background on this?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bobby Deitch** <bobby.deitch@gsa.gov>
Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2011 at 6:54 PM
Subject: Fw: Exploding Toilet Sends Woman To Hospital
To: david.marciniak@gsa.gov

Bobby

Bobby G. Deitch
U.S. General Services Administration
PBS - Office of Facilities Management and Services Programs
Security and Emergency Management Division
Phone: [202-208-5469](tel:202-208-5469)
Email: bobby.deitch@gsa.gov "Sustaining World-Class Facilities and Services"

From: **Bobby Deitch (PMBB)** [mailto:bobby.deitch@gsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 05:47 PM
To: Robert Shaw <robertd.sbau@gsa.gov>; Bob Harding <bob.harding@gsa.gov>; Robert Carter <robert.carter@gsa.gov>; Maggie Artigliere <maggie.artigliere@gsa.gov>; Wyndell Watkins <wyndell.watkins@gsa.gov>; Mark Strickland <mark.strickland@gsa.gov>
Subject: Exploding Toilet Sends Woman To Hospital

<http://wusa9.com/news/article/168701/158/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

WASHINGTON (WUSA) -- A woman was sent to the hospital after a toilet exploded at the General Services Administration (GSA) Building in DC, building officials said.

DC Fire Spokesman Pete Piringer confirmed the woman was taken to the hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The GSA Regional office building employees were sent a memo, warning them to not use the bathrooms in the building, because the plumbing may be dangerous. The building is on 7th and D SW.

"DO NOT flush toilets or use any domestic water. Due to a mechanical failure, there is high air pressure in the domestic water system that resulted in damage to toilets. The engineering staff is working to correct the issue," the memo said. "There has been damage to flushed toilets that has resulted in injuries. We will announce when the issue is resolved."

Bobby

Bobby G. Deitch

U.S. General Services Administration

PBS - Office of Facilities Management and Services Programs

Security and Emergency Management Division

Phone: 202-208-5469

Email: _____

"Sustaining World-Class Facilities and Services"

--
David S. Marciak, PE, CSP

Facilities Management and Services Programs

Public Buildings Service

General Services Administration

1800 Fst NW

Washington DC 20405

202-538-9029

--
Jimmy L. Huff, CPM

National Capital Region

Safety Environment and Fire Protection Branch

Supervisor, Occupational Safety and Health

301 7th Street SW, Rm 2080

Washington, DC 20407

Business: 202-708-5256

Cell: 202-870-0633



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: Yesterday's Incident - Water Pressure

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: "Jimmy Huff (WPMACB)" <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov>

Tue, Sep 27, 2011 et 9:24 AM

Jimmy,

It is my understanding that this has never been an issue before. I believe that someone manually turned on the air compressor in question, and left it unattended. I am not sure why they would turn that compressor on, but perhaps to lower the water level in the holding tank more quickly. The pressure on that compressor was set at 60 psi, which was high enough to push the water out of the tank and keep the water pumps from coming on. The pressure was enough to damage the toilets. I will have someone meet you and show you the compressor.

Chris

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 9:18 AM, Jimmy Huff (WPMACB) <jimmy.huff@gsa.gov> wrote:
Chris,

A very good report. If possible, can I go with one of your people to take a look at the location of the air compressor. Also has there been any recent complaints regarding water pressure.. In the last 3 months?

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 8:44 AM, Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:
Jimmy,

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If at all possible, I need a few minutes of your time/your assistance (if you are not available). I would like to take a look at the compressor and go over some timelines. Should not take more than 45 minutes or so. Currently, I am scheduled to be in the office most of the day. So let me know when you might be available. Thanks...

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FAX- [\(202\) 708-4867](tel:(202) 708-4867)

--
Jimmy L. Huff, CPM
National Capital Region
Safety Environment and Fire Protection Branch
Supervisor, Occupational Safety and Health

11/29/11

GSA.gov Mail - Re: Yesterday's Incident - Water Pressure

301 7th Street SW, Rm 2080

Washington, DC 20407

Business: 202-708-5256

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Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Black (WPDA) [john.black@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Philip Seacrist; Christopher Hudson

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/dcnews/article/168701/187/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

John R. Black, EIT
Mechanical Engineer
U.S. General Services Administration-NCR
Office of Planning & Design Quality - WPD
301 7th Street, SW room 2020
Washington, DC 20407
ph. 202.494.7592 fax 202.708.4964
john.black@gsa.gov

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: John Black (WPDA) [john.black@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Winston Wright

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/dcnews/article/168701/187/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

John R. Black, EIT
Mechanical Engineer
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ph. 202.494.7592 fax 202.708.4964
john.black@gsa.gov

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Dawn Elliott (IOILBC) [dawn.elliott@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:39 AM
To: Paul Houston
Subject: toilet

<http://capitolhill.wusa9.com/news/news/72708-exploding-toilet-sends-woman-hospital>

--
Dawn M. Elliott
IT Specialist, IOILB
NCR Local IT Support
GSA/NCR/PBS
301 7th Street, SW
Room 2043
Washington, DC 20407
Desk: 202-708-4702
Fax: 202-692-3166

Toni Slappy (WPGCC)

From: Julia Hudson (WA) [julia.hudson@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 11:23 AM
To: Paula DeMuth
Subject: Fwd: Yesterday's Stories: Television.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "William Marshall (Z)" <wiliam_marshall@gsa.gov>
Date: September 27, 2011 9:36:55 AM EDT
To: Julia Hudson <julia.hudson@gsa.gov>
Cc: adam.elkington@gsa.gov, Sara Merriam <sara.merriam@gsa.gov>, "Emily Barocas (Z)" <emily.barocas@gsa.gov>
Subject: Yesterday's Stories: Television.

<http://www.tbd.com/articles/2011/09/gsa-building-toilet-explodes-sending-woman-to-hospital-67072.html>

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Injured-By-Exploding-Toilet-130606798.html>

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/168701/187/Exploding-Toilet-Sends-Woman-To-Hospital>

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44676485/ns/us_news-weird_news/

--
William Marshall, Jr.
National Capital Region
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Office of the Regional Administrator
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301 7th Street, SW, Room 7014
Washington, DC 20407
[202-708-9100](tel:202-708-9100) Office
[202-578-0915](tel:202-578-0915) Cell



Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Domestic Water Incident summary

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>
Cc: Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>

Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 2:00 PM

For your review.

On September 26, 2011 the GSA Regional Office Building experienced a domestic water system incident. The effected ROB domestic water system dates to the 1950s, including the holding tank and plumbing that was over pressurized. The toilet fixtures that fractured were older porcelain bowls (likely with existing micro fractures) that were piped directly to the domestic water system.

Over the years, numerous changes and modifications to the domestic water system resulted in redundant systems that were wired incorrectly. This contributed to the existing safety systems not functioning properly. Additionally, an air compressor connected to the domestic water holding tank was inadvertently left in operation.

Higher than normal air pressure forced air into the building plumbing systems and the water out of the roof-top holding tank. The overpressure of the plumbing system caused toilet fixtures to fracture when flushed.

The combination of an older system, incorrectly wired controls, human error, direct plumbing and old porcelain fixtures all contribute to this incident.

--
Chris Litsey, MBA, FMP
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Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>

Re: Domestic Water Incident summary

1 message

Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov>
To: Martin Gusky <martin.gusky@gsa.gov>
Cc: Shauna Carter <shauna.carter@gsa.gov>

Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 2:19 PM

Update to include mitigation.

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Over the years, numerous changes and modifications resulted in redundant systems that were wired incorrectly. This contributed to the existing safety systems not functioning properly. Additionally, an air compressor connected to the domestic water holding tank was inadvertently left in operation. The increased pressure in the system forced air into the building plumbing systems and the water out of the roof-top holding tank. The safety systems did not correct the problem, and as a result the overpressure of the plumbing system caused toilet fixtures to fracture when flushed.

The combination of an old system with incorrectly wired controls, human error, direct plumbing and older porcelain fixtures all contribute to this incident. The manually operated compressor that was inadvertently left on has been removed from service. The holding tank water levels are being monitored by maintenance staff, and a project to correct the control system shortcomings is being developed.

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 2:00 PM, Chris Litsey (WPMFB) <chris.litsey@gsa.gov> wrote:

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flushed.

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